

# QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES

All candidates shall be qualified electors as required by R.S. 18:463\*

OFFICE	QUALIFICATIONS	LEGAL CITATION
<b>PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR</b>	The candidate shall be a qualified elector of the district for which the candidate seeks election. No U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress or person holding an office of trust or profit under the U.S. shall be elected a presidential elector.	R.S.18:1252A, B U.S. Constitution Article II, Section 1, Clause 2
<b>GOVERNOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE TREASURER COMM. OF AGRICULTURE COMM. OF INSURANCE</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 25 years, be an elector, and have been a citizen of the United States and of Louisiana for at least the preceding 5 years.	Louisiana Constitution Article IV, Section 2
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 25 years, be an elector, and have been a citizen of the United States and of Louisiana for at least the preceding 5 years and shall have been admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana for at least the 5 years preceding the candidate's election.	Louisiana Constitution Article IV, Section 2
<b>U. S. SENATOR</b>	The candidate shall have attained the age of 30 years, have been a citizen of the United States for 9 years, and be an inhabitant of Louisiana when elected.	R.S. 18:1275 A U.S.C.A. Const. Art. 1§3. Cl.3
<b>U. S. REPRESENTATIVE</b>	The candidate shall have attained the age of 25 years, have been a citizen of the United States for 7 years, and be an inhabitant of Louisiana when elected.	R.S. 18:1275 B U.S.C.A. Const. Art. 1§2. Cl.2
<b>ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT JUDGE, COURT OF APPEAL JUDGE, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY COURT JUDGE, JUVENILE COURT JUDGE, PARISH COURT</b>	The candidate shall have been admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana for at least 5 years (Beginning 1/1/08, 10 years for supreme court or court of appeals candidates, and 8 years for district court, family court, parish court, or court having solely juvenile jurisdiction candidates) prior to the candidate's election. By the date of qualification, candidate shall have been domiciled in the respective district, circuit, or parish for the 2 years (Beginning 1/1/08, 1 year) preceding the candidate's election. Elected or appointed incumbent judges, are not eligible to run for any elective office other than their own or another judicial office. In order to run for another office, they must resign from their office at least 24 hours prior to the date of qualifying for such other office. A judge appointed to fill a vacancy shall be ineligible as a candidate at the election to fill the vacancy. Candidate must be younger than the mandatory retirement age of 70.	R.S. 18:451  R.S. 42:39  Louisiana Constitution Article V, Sections 22, 23, 24
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.</b>	The candidate shall be a qualified elector.	R.S. 45:1161.1
<b>STATE BOARD OF ELEM. and SECONDARY EDUCATION</b>	The candidate shall be a resident of the district.	R.S. 17:1 B
<b>STATE SENATOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 18 years, resided in Louisiana for the preceding 2 years, and been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the legislative district from which the candidate seeks election. At the next regular election for members of the legislature following legislative reapportionment, an elector may qualify as a candidate from any district created in whole or in part from a district existing prior to reapportionment if he was domiciled in that prior district for at least 1 year immediately preceding his qualification and was a resident of the state for the 2 years preceding his qualification. If elected must change domicile to district before being sworn in. No person elected to serve as a member of the legislature for more than two and one-half terms in three consecutive terms shall be elected for the succeeding term beginning with the term beginning on January 8, 1996.	Louisiana Constitution Article III, Section 4
<b>DISTRICT ATTORNEY</b>	The candidate shall have been admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana for at least 5 years prior to the candidate's election and, by the date of qualification, shall have resided in the district for the 2 years preceding the candidate's election.	R.S. 18:451 Louisiana Constitution Article V, Section 26 (A)
<b>SHERIFF CLERK OF COURT ASSESSOR</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have resided in the state for the preceding 2 years and shall have been domiciled for the preceding year in the parish from which he seeks election.	R.S. 18:451.2
<b>CORONER</b>	The candidate shall be a licensed physician, unless no licensed physician in the parish will accept the office. The coroner shall be a resident of the parish or a licensed physician who maintains a full-time medical practice at a principal medical office facility in the parish.	Louisiana Constitution Article V, Section 29 R.S. 33:1554 B

\* NOTE: See Page 15 for restrictions for convicted felons.

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<b>POLICE JUROR</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 18 years, resided in Louisiana for the preceding 2 years, and been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the district from which the candidate seeks election.	R.S. 33:1225 Louisiana Constitution Article III, Section 4
<b>PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER</b>	Check Parish Home Rule Charter for qualifications and term limits.	Parish Home Rule Charter
<b>JUDGE, CITY COURT</b>	The candidate shall be licensed to practice law in Louisiana for at least 5 years previous to the candidate's election and, by the date of qualification, shall have been a qualified resident elector of the territorial jurisdiction of the court for at least 2 years prior to the candidate's election. Candidate must be younger than the mandatory retirement age of seventy (70). Elected or appointed incumbent judges, are not eligible to run for any elective office other than their own or another judicial office. In order to run for another office, they must resign from their office at least 24 hours prior to the date of qualifying for such other office. Also, a judge appointed to fill a vacancy shall be ineligible as a candidate at the election to fill the vacancy. (Considered a ward office, see Attorney General Opinion #78-798.) <b>Check additional qualifications for specific courts in Title 13. For municipalities governed by a Home Rule or Legislative Charter, consult the Home Rule or Legislative Charter for additional qualifications.</b>	R.S. 13:1873 R.S. 18:451 R.S. 42:39 Louisiana Constitution Article V Sections 22 & 23
<b>MARSHAL, CITY COURT</b>	The candidate shall be a resident elector of the territorial jurisdiction of the court and shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education if not in office on 8/15/97. (Considered a ward office, see Attorney General Opinion #78-798.)	R.S. 13:1880
<b>SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER</b>	By the date of qualification, the candidate shall have attained the age of 18, resided in Louisiana for the preceding 2 years, and have been actually domiciled for the preceding year in the parish, ward, or district from which the candidate seeks election. The candidate shall be able to read and write. At the next regular election following reapportionment an elector may qualify in any district created in whole or in part from a district existing prior to reapportionment if he was domiciled in the prior district for at least one year immediately preceding his qualification and was a resident of the state for the 2 years preceding his qualification. If elected must change domicile to district before being sworn in.	R.S. 17:52 D & E
<b>JUSTICE OF THE PEACE</b>	The candidate shall be of good moral character, a qualified elector, be a resident of the ward and district from which elected and able to read and write the English language correctly. By the date of qualification in 2008, the candidate shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by BESE. Beginning in 2008, a candidate shall not have attained age 70 by the date he qualifies; a Justice of the Peace who reaches age 70 while serving a term of office will be allowed to complete the term. (shall not apply to those Justices of the Peace who are serving or were elected on or before 8/15/06) A Justice of the Peace elected to and holding office on 7/2/99 may continue to serve whether or not he resides in the ward and the district from which he was elected. A justice of the peace appointed to fill an unexpired term is <b>not</b> authorized to run for that office in the next subsequent election for that office, either special or otherwise, even though he has officially resigned from the office of justice of the peace.	R.S. 13:2582, R.S. 42:39.2 Louisiana Constitution Article V, Section 23 Attorney General Opinion No. 90-324
<b>CONSTABLE (Justice of the Peace Court)</b>	The candidate shall be of good moral character, able to read and write the English language, possess a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education if not in office on 11/19/95 and shall be an elector and resident of the ward or district from which the candidate is elected. Beginning in 2008, a candidate shall not have attained age 70 by the date he qualifies for Constable; a Constable who reaches age 70 while serving a term of office will be allowed to complete the term. (shall not apply to those Constables who are serving or were elected on or before 8/15/06)	R.S. 13:2583 A
<b>GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION MEMBER</b>	The candidate shall be a citizen of the United States and a qualified voter of the tenth ward, parish of Lafourche.	R.S. 34:1651 D

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## QUALIFICATIONS

(These qualifications apply to municipalities governed by the Lawrason Act. For municipalities governed by a Home Rule or Legislative Charter, consult the Home Rule or Legislative Charter for qualifications.)

MUNICIPAL OFFICE		LEGAL CITATION
MAYOR	The candidate shall be an elector of the municipality who at the time of qualification shall have been domiciled and actually resided for at least the immediately preceding year in the municipality.	R.S. 33:384
CHIEF OF POLICE MARSHAL	The candidate shall be an elector of the municipality when elected. At the time of qualification, the candidate shall have been domiciled for at least the immediately preceding year in a city or town (6 months in a village) except that a person who resides outside of the corporate limits of the village of Maurice may be elected chief of police. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the village of Napoleonville.	R.S. 33:385.1
ALDERMAN COUNCILMAN COUNCIL MEMBER	The candidate shall be an elector of the municipality who at the time of qualification shall have been domiciled and actually resided for at least the immediately preceding year in the municipality. In addition, those elected from wards must be residents of their respective wards at the time of qualifying.	R.S. 33:384 & 385 Attorney General Opinion No. 98-319

POLITICAL PARTY OFFICE	QUALIFICATIONS	LEGAL CITATION
DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE	The candidate shall meet the qualifications established by the rules and regulations of the state central committee of the political party.	R.S. 18:443 A R.S. 18:443.2 (1)
DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN PARISH EXECUTIVE COMM.	The candidate shall meet the qualifications established by the rules and regulations of the state central committee of the political party.	R.S. 18:444 A

## REAPPORTIONMENT - SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

	LEGAL CITATION
At the first election following reapportionment, "An elector may qualify as a candidate from any district created in whole or in part from a district existing prior to reapportionment if he was domiciled in that prior district for the time limit provided by law preceding his qualification, provided he becomes domiciled in the district he is elected to represent prior to being sworn into office."	Attorney General Opinion No. 94-334

## \*NOTE RESTRICTIONS FOR CONVICTED FELONS - Louisiana Constitution Article I, Section 10:

### (B) Disqualification. The following persons shall not be permitted to qualify as a candidate for elective public office:

(1) A person who has been convicted within this state of a felony and who has exhausted all legal remedies, or who has been convicted under the laws of any other state or of the United States or of any foreign government or country of a crime which, if committed in this state, would be a felony and who has exhausted all legal remedies and has not afterwards been pardoned either by the governor of this state or by the officer of the state, nation, government or country having such authority to pardon in the place where the person was convicted and sentenced.

(2) A person actually under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.

(C) **Exception.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (B) of this section, a person who desires to qualify as a candidate for or hold an elective office, who has been convicted of a felony and who has served his sentence, but has not been pardoned for such felony, shall be permitted to qualify as a candidate for or hold such office if the date of his qualifying for such office is more than fifteen years after the date of the completion of his original sentence.